

# Connections to Public Water Supply Coming This Summer

**Copley Square Plaza Superfund Site**  
Copley Township, Ohio

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## For more information

If you have questions about the Copley Square project, please contact:

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## You may review site-related documents at:

Copley Township Trustees Office  
1540 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road  
Copley

Fairlawn-Bath Public Library  
3101 Smith Road  
Akron

Or visit  
[www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/copleysquare](http://www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/copleysquare).

Work should begin early this summer on hooking up a small group of homes in the Copley Square area to the Akron public water supply. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency expects the work to be completed by the end of this year, unless bad weather delays the project.

EPA and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency are working with the Akron Public Utilities Bureau to provide water main line extensions at no cost to residents. Those who choose to connect will pay only a regular monthly bill for the water they use in the future.

Homeowners have already been asked for written permission allowing EPA and Ohio EPA to hook up homes to public water. Property owners who have not yet signed an access agreement have until April 30 to do so.

Hooking up homes to the public water supply is part of EPA's plan to protect residents from ground water contaminated with perchloroethylene, or PCE – also called tetrachloroethylene. More commonly known as "PERC," the chemical is used in dry cleaning processes. EPA determined this contamination came from the former dry cleaner in Copley Square Plaza.

## What to expect

When work begins, residents may see construction equipment and workers in required protective clothing such as coveralls, reflective vests, hardhats and gloves.



*When work begins, be on the lookout for construction workers and proceed cautiously in the area.*

EPA will remove the water filtration systems from six homes where they were installed earlier. Ohio EPA is maintaining these systems until connection to public water is done. Workers will then close the private wells at properties being connected to public water so future residents do not unknowingly use contaminated water.

Trucks and equipment in the area could affect traffic. Some sections of Copley Road, South Plainview Avenue, Appletree Road, Elizabeth Avenue and corresponding side streets will be partially blocked off at times, and roads may be limited to only one lane. Please keep this in mind while driving and proceed at a slow, safe speed.

Work is estimated to take about six months to complete.

## Background

EPA has been working for several years to clean up PERC contamination in residential wells near Copley Square Plaza. EPA installed water filtration systems in eight residences, free of charge, with affected wells near the Copley Square Plaza site. Since then, two of the homeowners paid for public water on their own.

## Next steps

In addition to public water supply connections, EPA plans to install equipment in 11 homes to ensure harmful vapors are not coming up through the ground and affecting indoor air. Workers install a tube through the basement slab and vent it outside through a system the size of a soccer ball. Installation begins in April. Property owners who have not yet signed an access agreement have until April 6 to do so for this portion of the project.

The third part of the cleanup plan is for EPA to inject a thick mixture into the ground to break up the PERC. Ultimately, this thick mixture will remove the dangerous element, chlorine, from the dry cleaning compounds. The shallow ground water will be clean again after 10 to 15 years. EPA will finish the design for this part of the cleanup by this summer.

EPA is also studying contamination in the intermediate and deep aquifers. Those studies should be done this spring, and EPA will know if additional cleanup is needed.

### What is a deep aquifer?

An aquifer is an underground source of water, and there's more than one in the Copley/Akron area. The shallow aquifer is closest to the surface. Most private water wells in Copley tap into this water source. However, in the area near the former dry cleaner, part of the shallow aquifer is contaminated with PERC. There's also an aquifer deep underground, and an intermediate aquifer in between. Layers of clay and rock keep these aquifers separate.

There may be fractures in the rock formations underneath Copley. Small cracks can allow water from the shallow aquifer to dive into deeper aquifers and move horizontally. EPA is studying the intermediate and deep aquifers to make sure PERC has not moved into them.



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